



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail
2829 W. Howard Place, 4th Floor
Denver, CO 80204

DATE: March 8, 2019
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee
FROM: David Krutsinger, Director - Division of Transit & Rail
RE: Denver Region Fund Swap

Purpose

Improve the ability of the Denver Region to serve seniors and persons with disabilities by better utilizing 5310-Urban funds and DRCOG Human Service Transportation (HST) set-aside funds.

Actions

CDOT Staff are requesting a recommendation by TRAC to the Transportation Commission for TC action on March 21, 2019.

Background

The DRCOG Board of Directors adopted the HST Set Aside to provide \$4 million over four years (FFY 2020-2023) through the TIP using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds to fund underfunded / underserved trips and rolling stock to improve service and mobility options for vulnerable populations in the Denver region including individuals with disabilities, older adults, people with low-income, and veterans. Since the monies are to be allocated through the TIP, they are intended for projects conducted within the DRCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries.

Details

To increase the flexibility of fund usage for the intended purposes, and to better integrate the management of 5310-Denver funds, CDOT, DRCOG, and RTD are proposing a swap of funds. DRCOGs CMAQ funds would be obligated to RTD in exchange for an equal amount (\$1 M) of RTD's FASTER set-aside funds being obligated to DRCOG each year. This may allow some projects in the Denver region to use FASTER funds to match FTA 5310 funds for seniors and persons with disabilities. CMAQ funds could not be used to match FTA 5310, because both are federal funds. RTD believes this does not reduce their flexibility due to the availability of abundant non-federal matching dollars from sales and use tax.

Discussion

CDOT and DRCOG have committed to increased coordination with regard to projects/services for seniors and persons with disabilities. Increased coordination is expected to lead to, at minimum, greater awareness of total need, and the intent is to more efficiently meet a greater proportion of the total need.

Options

- Option 1: Recommend that the T&I committee of the Transportation Commission approve this fund swap. (CDOT staff recommendation)
- Option 2: Recommend, with conditions, that the T&I committee of the Transportation Commission approve this fund swap.
- Option 3: Do not Recommend this action. (Not recommended by CDOT staff)

Next Steps

The Transportation Commission will consider the TRAC recommendation in their vote on March 21, 2019.

Attachments: None

